

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 13th July 1889.

CONTENTS:

	Page.		Page.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.		(f)—Questions affecting the land—	
The Lushai question ... ...	... 611	Nil.	
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.		(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—	
<i>(a)—Police—</i>		A gate at Sadaibandh on the East Indian Railway line 615 Roads in the Culna sub-division ib. The case of a railway clerk 616 Retrenchment on the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway line ib. The proposed Krishnagunge-Kotchandpore Railway ... ib. A road from Malangapalli to the Machhindrapore station on the Central Bengal line ib.	
The Dacoity at Sanpur in the district of Howrah ... ib. The Chowkidari Act in Khanakul Krishnaghur, Hooghly district ... ib. Theft at Dashghara in the Hooghly district ... ib. How the police deals with offences ... ib.		<i>(h)—General—</i>	
<i>(b)—Working of the Courts—</i>		Drinking water in the villages ib. A new sub-registry office for the Ranigunge sub-division 617 Natives as volunteers and the native army of India ... ib. A military class in the Lahore College, Punjab ... 618 The new loan ib. Value-payable book packets 619 Official vagaries in Burma ib. The Amla Committee ib. Baboo Atul Chandra Chatterjea and income-tax cases in Kurigram 620 Black fever in Assam ib. The currency note circular ib. Moulavi Amjad Hossein, Sub-Registrar of Uluberia, and his clerk, Jadab Baboo 621 The salt tax ib. The new loan ib. The Presidency Postmaster and the <i>Santi</i> newspaper ib.	
<i>(c)—Jails—</i>	Nil.	III.—LEGISLATIVE.	
<i>(d)—Education—</i>		The Leper Bill 622 The Leper Bill ib. The Leper Bill 623 A law for the preservation of fish ib. The Leper Bill ib.	
<i>(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—</i>		IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
The income of the Rampore Beauleah Municipality ... 614 The Rampore Beauleah Municipality wasting money in litigation ... ib. The Boards in the district of Howrah ... 615 The Calcutta Municipality ... ib.		Cashmere 624 Lord Lansdowne and the Cashmere State ib. The Tipperah Raj ib. The report of the Political Agent of Tipperah ... 625 The Viceroy and the Mahrajah of Cashmere ... ib. The Mahrajah of Cashmere ib.	

Page.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF
THE PEOPLE.

Mr. Tute, Magistrate of Cuttack, and the famine in Orissa	... 625
Scarcity at Samastipore near Durbhunga...	... ib.
Excessive rainfall in Midnapore	... 626
Distress in certain villages in the Diamond Harbour sub-division	... ib.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The causes of famine in India	... 627
Cholera in the coolie depôts at Ranigunge	... ib.
Natives as financiers	... ib.
The carters' strike	... ib.
Deterioration of the health of the Midnapore town	... 628
The house for Sub-divisional Officers at Uluberiah	... ib.
Famine and free trade	... ib.

Page.

URIYA PAPERS.

The Leper Bill	... 630
The result of the last B. L. Examination	... ib.
Relief of distress in Angul	... ib.
Relief of distress in certain Tributary States	... ib.
Effects of rainfall in the Cuttack and Balasore districts	631

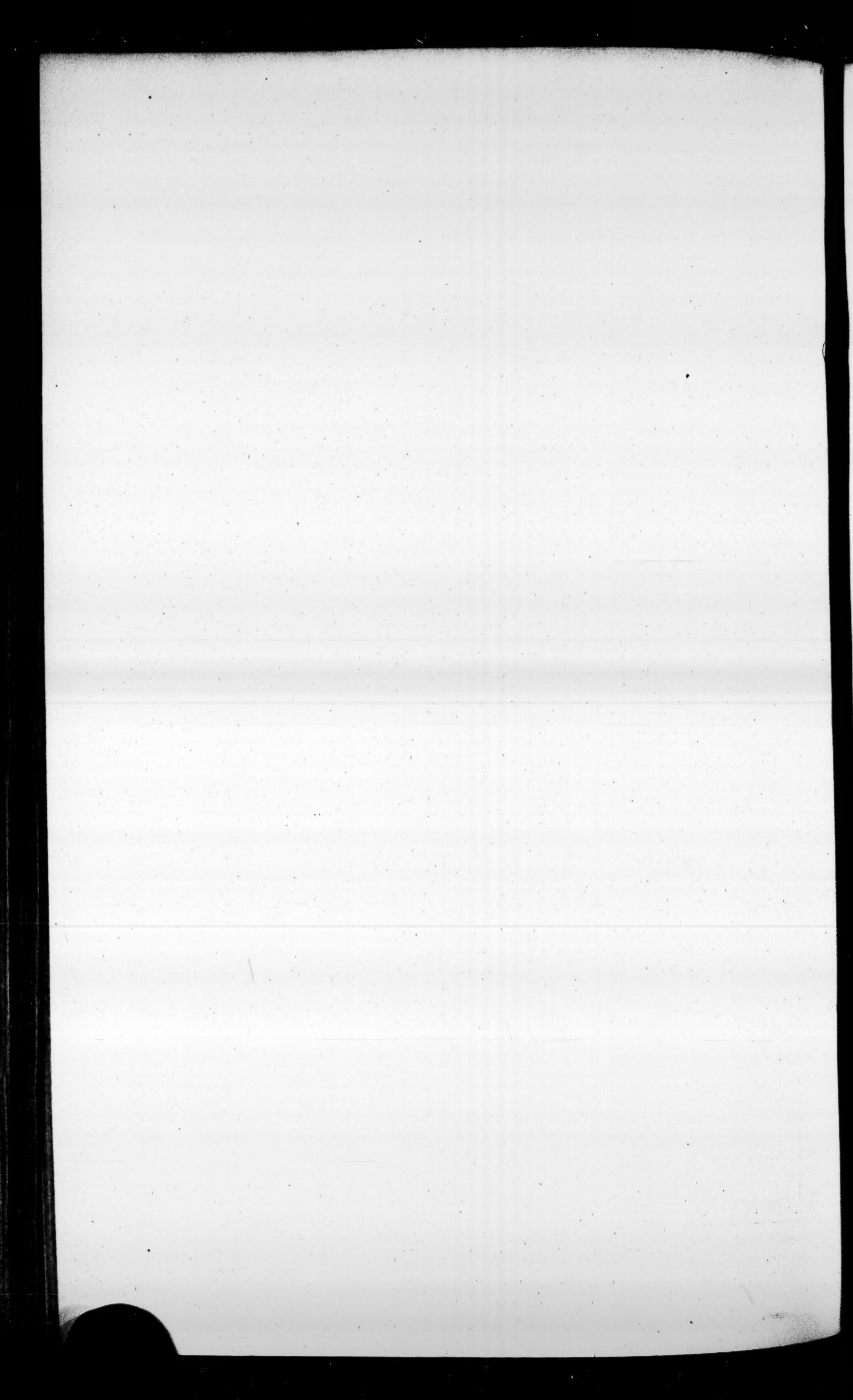
ASSAM PAPERS.

Nil.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	" Kasipore Nibási "	... Kasipore, Burrisal ...	30	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
2	" Ahammadí "	... Tangail, Mymensingh	450	
3	" Ave Maria "	... Calcutta	.....
4	" Divákar "	... Ditto	.....
5	" Gaura Duta "	... Maldah	.....
6	" Purva Bangabásí "	... Noakholly	.....
7	" Purva Darpan "	... Chittagong	700	
8	" Uttara Banga Hitaishi "	... Mahiganj, Rungpore	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
9	" Arya Darpan "	... Calcutta	102	21st June 1889.
10	" Bangabásí "	... Ditto	20,000	6th July 1889.
11	" Burdwán Sanjíbaní "	... Burdwan	302	2nd ditto.
12	" Chandra Vilásh "	... Berhampore	250	
13	" Cháruvártá "	... Sherepore, Mymensingh	500	
14	" Chattal Gazette "	... Chittagong	800	
15	" Dacca Prakásh "	... Dacca	1,200	
16	" Education Gazette "	... Hooghly	885	5th ditto.
17	" Faridpur Hitaishini "	... Faridpur	.....
18	" Garíb "	... Dacca	3,000	
19	" Grambásí "	... Uluberia	800	6th ditto.
20	" Gaurab "	... Ditto	.....
21	" Guru Charana "	... Calcutta	.....	11th ditto.
22	" Hindu Ranjiká "	... Beauleah, Rajshahye	300	3rd ditto.
23	" Jagatbásí "	... Calcutta	750	
24	" Murshidábád Patriká "	... Berhampore	508	
25	" Murshidábád Pratinidhi "	... Ditto	350	
26	" Navavibhákar Sádháraní "	... Calcutta	600	8th ditto.
27	" Prajá Bandhu "	... Chandernagore	995	5th ditto.
28	" Pratikár "	... Berhampore	600	
29	" Rungpore Dik Prakásh "	... Kakinía, Rungpore	205	
30	" Sahachar "	... Calcutta	500	3rd ditto.
31	" Samaya "	... Ditto	3,806	5th ditto.
32	" Sanjivani "	... Ditto	4,000	6th ditto.
33	" Sansodhíní "	... Chittagong	800	
34	" Santi "	... Calcutta	3,722	3rd & 10th July 1889.
35	" Saráswat Patra "	... Dacca	300	
36	" Som Prakásh "	... Calcutta	1,000	8th July 1889.
37	" Srímanta Saudagár "	... Ditto	.....
38	" Sulabha Samáchár o Kusadaha "	... Ditto	800	5th ditto.
39	" Surabhi o Patáka "	... Ditto	700	4th ditto.

No.	Names of newspapers.		Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
Daily.					
40	" Dainik o Samáchár Chandriká "	...	Calcutta	1,500	4th & 11th July 1889.
41	" Samvád Prabhákar "	...	Ditto	800	5th to 10th ditto.
42	" Samvád Purnachandrodaya "	...	Ditto	300	5th to 11th ditto.
43	" Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká "	...	Ditto	500	
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.					
Weekly.					
44	" Dacca Gazette "	...	Dacca	.....
HINDI.					
Monthly.					
45	" Darjeeling Mission ke Másik Sámachár Patrika."	...	Darjeeling	20	
46	" Kshatriya Pratiká "	...	Patna	200	
Weekly.					
47	" Aryávarta "	...	Calcutta	1,500	6th July 1889.
48	" Behar Bandhu "	...	Bankipore	.....
49	" Bhárat Mitra "	...	Calcutta	1,653	27th June & 4th July 1889.
50	" Sár Sudhánidhi "	...	Ditto	500	24th June & 1st July 1889.
51	" Uchit Baktá "	...	Ditto	4,500	
52	" Hindi Samáchár "	...	Bhagulpore	1,000	
PERSIAN.					
Weekly.					
53	" Jám-Jahán-numá "	...	Calcutta	250	5th July 1889.
URDU.					
Weekly.					
54	" Aftal Alum Arrah "	...	Arrah	300	
55	" Akhbar Tusdiq-i-Hind "	...	Calcutta	.....
56	" Anis "	...	Patna	.....
57	" Gauhur "	...	Calcutta	196	
58	" Sharaf-ul-Akbar "	...	Behar	150	
59	" Al Puuch "	...	Bankipore	.....	1st ditto.
Bi-weekly.					
60	" Darusaltanat "	...	Calcutta	340	7th ditto.
Daily.					
61	" Urdu Guide "	...	Calcutta	212	
URIYA.					
Monthly.					
62	" Asha "	...	Cuttack	.....
63	" Taraka and Subhavártá "	...	Ditto	.....
64	" Pradíp "	...	Ditto	.....
65	" Samyabadi "	...	Ditto	.....
Weekly.					
66	" Dipaka "	...	Cuttack	.....	29th June 1889.
67	" Utkal Dípiká "	...	Ditto	444	29th ditto.
68	" Balasore Samvad Váhika "	...	Balasore	205	27th ditto.
69	" Uryá and Navasamvád "	...	Ditto	600	26th ditto.
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.					
BENGALI.					
70	" Silchar "	...	Silchar	500	
Fortnightly.					
Weekly.					
71	" Paridarshak "	...	Sylhet	450	



I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The Bangabási, of the 6th July, says that Government will renew hostilities with the Lushais in November next.
The Lushai question.

BANGABASI,
July 6th, 1889.

The Lushais have given no offence to the English this time, yet preparations for a war against them are being made. The object of the proposed expedition against the Lushais is to construct a road to Burma through the Lushai country. It seems that it is the desire of Government to annex the country of the Lushais by and bye. After the annexation of Burma, the annexation of the Lushai country has become necessary.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. The *Samaya*, of the 5th July, refers to a recent case of serious dacoity at Sanpur, a village only two miles to the west of Howrah, and remarks that during the last three months there have been

SAMAYA,
July 5th, 1889.

Dacoity at Sanpur in the district of Howrah. six cases of dacoity within the jurisdiction of Howrah. This shows the lax manner in which the Howrah police does its duty. The other day a police constable was arrested as one of the men who committed a dacoity at Kona; this time a chowkidar has been arrested on the same charge. These cases have shaken the confidence of the people in the Howrah police. It is hoped that the Magistrate of Howrah will enquire into these cases of dacoity.

3. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani*, of the 6th July, says that the extension of the Chowkidari Act to Khanakul, Krishnanagar and the adjacent villages in the district of Hooghly, has been a source of

SANJIVANI,
July 6th, 1889.

The Chowkidari Act in Khanakul, Krishnanagar, Hooghly District. great hardship to the villagers. The punchayets are now transferring the chowkidars of one village to another. They have now become all in all. The correspondent has heard that at the last election they elected themselves, and this is not improbable, considering that villagers knew nothing about the election.

4. A correspondent of the *Bangabási*, of the 6th July, says that, on the 8th Ashar last, a theft was committed at the house of Haradhan Bagdi of Dashghara in the Hooghly district. The thieves carried

BANGABASI,
July 6th, 1889.

Theft at Dashghara in the Hooghly district. off gold and silver worth Rs. 200, but no inquiry has been instituted into the matter. Why is no inquiry made?

5. The *Navavibhákar Sádhárani*, of the 8th July, says that it should be the duty of the police to prevent people from committing offences, but instead of doing this, it waits till an offence has been committed, and then apprehends the offender and brings him to justice. A recent case will illustrate this: the writer will not give names as it is still *sub judice*. A went to a European Police Inspector in Calcutta and informed him that B and C had kept him concealed in a certain place from which he had made his escape. Upon this the Inspector asked A whether he had left any property at that place, and upon his answering that he had, he accompanied him to the place. On arriving there, the Inspector told A that he would keep himself concealed there, and if anyone opposed him (A) in bringing away his property, he (A) should cry for help, and then the Inspector would come to his help. A went in and shortly after cried for help. The Inspector then ran in and apprehended B and C. Why did the Inspector act in this manner? What good could he have done to A by remaining concealed in this manner, if A had offended B and C in

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI,
July 8th, 1889.

such a manner that B and C could not have helped killing him if they saw him again? The police is often guilty of such conduct as this. Such conduct only increases the work of the police and the Law Courts, and injures society instead of benefiting it. It is hoped that the Lieutenant-Governor will put down this practice.

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
July 2nd, 1889.

6. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 2nd July, complains of injustice and irregularity in connection with the decision of cases by the Culna Municipal Bench, and asks the Magistrate of Burdwan to call for the papers of those cases. The Municipality of Culna has recently commenced charging a "searching fee" on persons who are supplied with any information regarding municipal matters requiring a reference to the municipal records. The fee is illegal, and the Magistrate of Burdwan should see that it is discontinued.

SANTI,
July 3rd, 1889.

A mis-trial in the Court of Baboo Tarini Coomar Ghose, Deputy Magistrate, Alipore.

7. The *Santi*, of the 3rd July, says that Madhusudan Ghosh, a rich and influential inhabitant of Naora, a village in the Bhangar thana of the 24-Pergunnahs district, lately encroached upon an old public road and put the villagers to serious inconvenience. Baboo Anupam Chandra Mitra, an inhabitant of the village, submitted a petition to Mr. Paul, the then Magistrate of the 24-Pergunnahs, pointing out the inconvenience caused by this encroachment. Mr. Paul ordered the road cess overseer to make an inquiry, and the overseer reported that the road had actually been encroached upon. The Sub-Inspector of the Bhangar thana was next ordered to submit a report on the subject. The Sub-Inspector also reported that there was an encroachment on the public road.

Mr. Forbes, the then Magistrate of the 24-Pergunnahs, ordered the District Engineer to issue a notice to Madhusudan Ghosh, and, if necessary, to prosecute him. About this time Baboo Anupam Mitra informed the Magistrate that Madhusudan Ghosh had encroached upon some other roads, and that the inquiry made on the subject had not been satisfactory. Baboo Tarini Coomar Ghosh, Deputy Magistrate of Alipore, was directed to take action on the application, whereupon Tarini Baboo ordered Anupam Mitra to deposit the cost of the proceeding. When the money was deposited, a notice was served upon Madhusudan. Madhusudan appeared before the Deputy Magistrate and prayed that the matter might be decided by assessors. The Deputy Magistrate granted his prayer. Out of five assessors four declared that Madhusudan had not encroached upon any public road, and the Deputy Magistrate accepted the verdict of the majority. Tarini Baboo was ordered to make inquiries on the 21st September 1888, and he delivered judgment on the 20th March 1889, that is, after seven months. The Deputy Magistrate thus put Anupam Baboo to endless trouble and expense for these seven months, and he placed no confidence in the reports of the overseer and the Sub-Inspector of police or in the representation of the villagers.

The writer draws the attention of Government to the following points in connection with this case :—

1. Baboo Tarini Coomar Ghosh has not been vested with powers under section 133 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and it was therefore unlawful for him to try the case.

2. If the overseer and the Sub-Inspector have submitted false reports, they should be dismissed.

8. The *Dainik-o-Samachár Chandriká*, of the 4th July, refers to the refusal of Mr. Marsden, Magistrate of Calcutta, to issue a summons against the Editor of the *Pioneer* at the instance of Captain Hearsey, and says that the very fact that Mr. Marsden refused the summons, although he knew that the Captain had no chance of obtaining justice in any Court in the North-West, shows that he is a bad Judge. He has been censured by the High Court for having refused to grant summons in this case. Nay, he has been receiving censure from the High Court from the very day he was appointed Magistrate of Calcutta. Any man with any sense of self-respect would have resigned under such censure. But Mr. Marsden apparently cares very little for honour or dishonour. His appointment is evidently safe. Perhaps he has powerful friends to back him.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
July 4th, 1889.

Mr. Marsden, Magistrate of Calcutta.

(d)—*Education.*

9. The *Sahachar*, of the 3rd July, is glad that the Committee appointed

The list of text-books for the middle vernacular and middle English schools.

SAHACHAR,
July 3rd, 1889.

by Government for selecting text-books for the middle vernacular and middle English schools have submitted their list of text-books, and asks the Director of Public Instruction to take steps to prevent illiterate men from writing meaning books and catechisms of the books included in the list. The cause of education in the country is greatly injured by the use of these keys and catechisms.

10. The *Sanjivani*, of the 6th July, says that Professor Rowe revealed himself in his true colours at the meeting of the Senate held the other day to appoint a Committee to enquire into the causes of the

Mr. Rowe in the Senate of the Calcutta University.

large percentage of failure in the last University examinations. The Professor tried his best to obstruct the business of the meeting, because he saw that if a Committee were appointed many of the irregularities which are committed by examiners like him would come to light. A man like Dr. Rajendra Lal can alone set a man like Mr. Rowe right.

SANJIVANI,
July 6th, 1889.

11. The *Bangabási*, of the 6th July, says that, though no Committee of Enquiry was appointed at the last meeting of the Senate of the Calcutta University, still some of the members present made a very

The last meeting of the Senate of the Calcutta University.

sorry exhibition of themselves, Professor Rowe cutting the most ridiculous figure. Does it look well for these men to work mischief at the examinations as examiners, and then to behave ridiculously as members of the Senate in the meetings of that body? The proposed Committee, if appointed, will be a Committee of Enquiry into the acts of these examiners themselves. Under these circumstances, ought the question of the appointment of the Committee to be decided by the examiners themselves in their capacity of members of the Senate? It therefore stands to reason that no Fellow of the University should be appointed examiner, and if he is, that it should be improper for him to be present at the meetings of the Senate held to discuss the conduct of the examiners.

BANGABASI,
July 6th, 1889.

12. The *Dainik-o-Samachár Chandriká*, of the 11th July, says that

Mr. Rowe as Officiating Registrar of the Calcutta University.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
July 11th, 1889.

Mr. Rowe has been appointed as Officiating Registrar of the Calcutta University for three months. Dr. P. K. Ray, who was also a candidate for the office, had greater claims to the appointment than Mr. Rowe, and would, if appointed, have done the work of the office much better than the latter is expected to do. It is doubtful whether there is in the whole department of education a man more unpopular and less respected than Mr. Rowe.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

HINDU RANJIKĀ,
July 3rd, 1889.

The income of the Rampore Beauleah
Municipality.

13. The *Hindu Ranjikā*, of the 3rd July, says that, by the adoption of the following measures, the income of the Rampore Beauleah Municipality can be increased without increasing taxation :—

(1). Excluding from the municipality the quarters situated to the north of the kutchery and including in it village Sirail and the Kajla Factory, that is to say, extending the municipal limits up to the road which, issuing from the southern side of the Motihari tank, and passing close by the house of Bhagabati Baboo in Sirail, goes close up to Srikrishna Chaube's house. The proposed extension of the municipal limits will enable the municipality to establish a cattle-pound at or near Bhadura, and the income derived from the Gabtali Ferry can also be appropriated by it. The expected increase of income may be shown under the following heads :—

	Rs.
Gabtali ferry	300
Pound	500
Municipal taxes	600
Tax on the registration of carts	600
Miscellaneous	200
Total	<u>2,200</u>

The loss which will be incurred by the exclusion of the quarter to the north of the kutchery will be small, say Rs. 200: so there will be a net increase of income by Rs. 2,000.

(2). Charging fees for licensing carts and carriages. Fees varying from one to four annas are levied in other municipalities on the registration of carts, and the Rampore Beauleah Municipality will get another Rs. 200 per annum if it levies such rates.

(3). Making better arrangements for the collection of taxes. A saving of Rs. 500 a year might be made by this means.

(4). Taking care of minor matters. An annual saving of about Rs. 300 or 400 might be made by this means.

HINDU RANJIKĀ.

The Rampore Beauleah Municipality wasting money in litigation. January last for not cutting down bamboos growing near his tank. On the 15th January Dr. Russell, the Civil Surgeon, accompanied by one of the members of the Municipality, inspected the tank, and stated it was his opinion that there were no sanitary objections to urge against the bamboos. Still the case against Haladhar was not withdrawn. The Chairman of the Municipality wasted the rate-payers' money in a fruitless lawsuit, although Mr. Macpherson, the District Magistrate, pointed out the mischievous nature of the course he was taking. Who is then responsible for this reckless waste of money? Mr. Phillips, the late Magistrate, declared that that case was instituted after consultation with him, and he therefore did not wish to try it. What business had the Chairman to consult with Mr. Phillips? It seems that if Mr. Macpherson had not come to Beauleah, the case would have been decided against Haladhar.

15. The *Grámvási*, of the 6th July, says that, though the rainy season has set in, yet nothing has been done to repair the roads within the district of Howrah. It is said that the applications for the construction of roads have not been granted, because the plans of the proposed roads have not been prepared. Thus it seems that by the time the plans will be ready the roads will be under water. A general complaint against all the Boards in this district of Howrah is that they do not answer the letters which are written to them. This is against good manners. It is said that the clerks in the service of the Boards often throw away letters for the purpose of decreasing their work. These things should be enquired into.

GRAMVASI,
July 6th, 1889.

The Boards in the district of Howrah.

16. The *Som Prakás̄h*, of the 8th July, says that the Calcutta Municipality does very little for the health and comfort of the town to justify its levy of increasing rates of taxes. The roads in the native quarters of the town are dirty and miserable and become impassable in the rainy season. Some of the lanes in Barra Bazar are so unhealthy that a walk through them is calculated to bring on an attack of cholera. The sweepings of the roads are not properly removed. The drainage of the town is imperfect, one or two hours' rain being sufficient to submerge the streets. In the native quarters of the town the gas is lighted half an hour after nightfall and put out $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours before daybreak. It is otherwise in the European quarters, where the gas burns from sunset to sunrise.

SOM PRAKASH,
July 8th, 1889.

The Calcutta Municipality.

17. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjíraní*, of the 2nd July, says that, as cases of suicide by lying down upon the railway line near Sadaibandh, a place between the Rajbandh and Durgapur stations on the East Indian Railway line have become frequent, the Railway authorities ought to construct a gate at that place.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
July 2nd, 1889.

A gate at Sadaibandh on the East Indian Railway line.

18. The same paper publishes the following representation on the subject of roads at Bagnapara and other villages within the sub-division of Culna, signed by some of the representative men of the villages of Bagnapara, Chandrapur, Naduk, Kaya, Salgosa, Madanhasa, Hasanhati, Patilposa, Bijesa, &c. :—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

The village of Bagnapara pays Rs. 703 yearly as road-cess, but the District Board has never spent a pice for the improvement of roads within it. In the rainy season these roads become impassable even for dogs and jackals. Besides paying the road-cess money year after year, the people of the village raised by subscription, more than 15 years ago, a sum of Rs. 1,400 for the construction of a road from Vaidyapur to Culna via Bagnapara. Again the late Babu Amritalal Roy paid to the District Board a large sum of money for the purpose of constructing a bridge over the Faringgachi river. Of that sum Rs. 8,000 is still in the hands of the Board. Last year the Board sanctioned a sum for the construction of a *cutcha* road from Culna to Bagnapara, but the sum was so small that no ticcadar would consent to undertake the construction of the road for it. As a last resource the people of Bagnapara and the surrounding villages applied to the Lieutenant-Governor on the subject. The application was returned to the Chairman of the District Board, with orders to construct the necessary road; but all this to no purpose. It is hoped that the Commissioner of Burdwan will look to the matter.

SÁNTI,
July 3rd, 1889.

19. The Sánti, of the 3rd July, says that Babu Prabodh Chandra Basu, lately a clerk in the Goods Department at the Sealdah Railway Station, has served with credit

in that station for eight years. He once fell sick and could not attend office for two days. He reported the matter to the Head Goods Clerk, but when he returned to office the Head Goods Clerk told him that he could not permit him to resume work without instructions from the Traffic Superintendent. The Traffic Superintendent's letter arrived the next day. It was to the effect that Prabodh Chandra's services should be dispensed with one month after the receipt of the letter. Prabodh Chandra was allowed to work for one month, during which the Head Goods Clerk, who had reported against him, appreciated his merit, and he therefore recommended to the Traffic Superintendent that the order passed on Prabodh should be cancelled. But the head clerk's recommendation was not accepted, and innocent Prabodh Chandra had to leave the Goods Department after the expiration of one month.

The case ought to be looked into by the authorities.

SURABHI O PATAKA,
July 4th, 1889.

Retrenchment on the Oudh and Ro-

hilkund Railway line.

ordered the number of officers employed on the Oudh and Rohilkund Railway line to be reduced. In consequence of this order, the higher officers serving on the line convened a meeting, in which they have decided upon reducing by 33 per cent. the salaries of all non-graded officers employed on the line. This means that the salaries of the "black" men alone will be reduced.

SANJIVANI,
July 6th, 1889.

The proposed Krishnagunj-Kot-

chandpore Railway.

completion does not yet seem to be in contemplation. The survey, the land acquisition, the earthwork, and the ballast laying are all done, and laying the rails is all that remains to be done. This line, if constructed, will be the means of connecting together the estates of the Maharaja of Krishnagore, of the late Maharaja Gangeschandra Raya of Shibnibas, of Babu Nafar-chandra Pal, of the late Babu Brindabanchandra Pal, the zemindars of Mahespore, and of the Rajah of Naldanga. The Krishnagunj station of the Eastern Bengal Railway, and the thanas Jibannagar and Mahespore and Kotchandpore will be on that line. Krishnagunj is famous for its trade, and Kotchandpore for its sugar manufacture. Three lakhs of maunds of sugar used to be exported annually from this place. Some new sugar mills have now been established here, and the export will therefore be henceforward larger. The railway will be able to recover all its expenses from this sugar traffic alone.

SOM PRakash,
July 8th, 1889.

A road from Malangapalli to the Machhlandapore station on the Central Bengal line.

want of a road from the village Malangapalli in the 24-Pergunnahs district to the railway station of Machhlandapore on the Central Bengal Line

is greatly felt. The station at Machhlandapore was opened six or seven years ago, and the construction of a road from the village to that station has been talked of all this time. Either the road should be constructed or the money paid as road cess year after year by the people of the village should be returned to them. More than a thousand people are daily subjected to inconvenience in consequence of the want of the road in question.

(h)—General.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
July 2nd, 1889.

23. The Burdwan Sanjivani, of the 2nd July, says that there was a time when the villages in Bengal enjoyed a reputation for salubriousness, and people

Drinking water in the villages.

went there from the towns for a change. But now-a-days the villages are much more unhealthy than the towns, and speaking generally are the hotbeds of cholera, malarious fever and other diseases. Want of good drinking water in the villages has produced this change.

The *Englishman* newspaper's proposal that the Local Boards should be invested with large powers enabling them to take steps to improve the drinking water in the villages is therefore certainly a good one; and much good will result if the Local Boards can set apart in every village a tank to be used exclusively for drinking purposes, and take measures for excavating new tanks and re-excavating old ones. The carrying out of these measures will, of course, require much more money than is at the disposal of the Local Boards. The deficiency cannot be raised by new taxation, for that will cause hardship to the people. Government should, therefore, lend money to the Boards for the purpose, either without interest or at a low rate of interest, and give them power to purchase land for the excavation of tanks. The public are sure to co-operate with Government in the matter if they see it spending money liberally for the purpose.

24. A correspondent of the same paper says that, as the area of the

Ranigunge sub-division is very large, there ought to be two sub-registry offices within it. There is at present but one sub-registry office.

A new sub-registry office for the Ranigunge sub-division.
There ought to be another near Durgapore on the Panagurh station. Much of the loss and trouble to which people are now subjected will be saved if another office is established; and as another office will increase the amount of registration work in the sub-division, Government will be no loser by establishing it.

25. The *Sahachar*, of the 3rd July, says that, in reply to the prayer made to it for the bestowal of the volunteering

Natives as Volunteers and the Native Army of India.
right on the natives of India, Government has said that it has no objection to do so if the

existing Volunteer Corps consent to take natives in their ranks. This means that the question whether volunteering right will or will not be conferred on the natives of this country will be henceforward decided by a few Europeans and Eurasians upon whom that right has been already conferred. But is it just to give in this way to one class of Her Majesty's subjects an undue advantage over another class? The fact is that Government is not at heart opposed to the admission of natives as volunteers, but it has not courage enough to do this. It is haunted by the thought that as the country is governed by a handful of Englishmen, the use of arms should be confined amongst them, and that, if the use of arms is taught to the subject population, they may succeed, one day, in driving the English from the country. O, how will the people of this country make the Government understand that this apprehension is perfectly groundless. The Indian empire was established with the strength and the blood of the Indians; and India's debt to England is so great that it would be most improper, nay sinful, for the Indians even to think of subverting English rule in India.

Again, what does the prayer of the people for obtaining the volunteering right mean? Does it mean the preservation or the subversion of English rule in India? The writer is sure that the prayer of the people would not have been refused if their number had been equal to that of the Eurasians or Europeans living in India. As it is, Government cannot trust the people; and it is high time that this feeling of distrust was laid aside once for all, and the Indians invited to enlist themselves freely in the defence of their country. In these days, when additions are being annually made to the army of every country, it will be impossible to defend India against foreign invasion without increasing her army indefinitely. In

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
July 2nd, 1889.

SAHACHAR,
July 3rd, 1889.

the last Turko-Russian war, Russia brought 400,000 men into the field, and if Russia ever invades India she will not probably bring a less number of men into the field. And how shall India find men sufficient in number to resist so large an army? Surely not by means of conscription, as Lord Wolseley says, for conscription is unsuited to England and India alike. As for increasing the paid army of India, it will not be safe to do so in a country where enormous military expenditure has by increasing the burdens of the people filled them with discontent. Government should therefore take the people into its confidence and fulfil their desire of having a share in the defence of their country.

Reference is then made to the native army of India, and it is remarked that the necessity for increasing the efficiency of that army is being gradually recognized by Government. Even the *Civil and Military Gazette*, a paper conducted by a European military officer of Government, strongly opposed to making any political concession to the natives of India, has made the admission that, in order that the efficiency of the native army may be increased, it should be largely officered with natives. The other day the son of a Pathan Sardar having applied for the post of officer in a native Cavalry corps, the Government of India replied that it was willing to grant the application provided an Officer Commanding a regiment consented to take him in his regiment. The Sardar's son applied to the heads of several regiments for admission, and was refused by every one. This shows that the European officers of the army are as determined as ever to shut its higher ranks against the natives of India. These officers are concerned only for their salaries, not for the safety of the empire. Government acted improperly by referring the Sardar's son to these officers, for it knew well that they would not grant his wish.

The alleged insufficient recognition by Government of the services of native officers is then referred to, and it is remarked that, though these officers often show greater courage and perform greater deeds of valour in battle than the European officers, they are never spoken of in terms of praise, and their names are seldom found in the army promotion lists published in the Government gazettes.

The subject of the Russian advance in Central Asia, and a possible war with Russia, is then referred to, and the importance of largely appointing natives of India as officers in the army, and of giving them proper military training, is dwelt upon. It is observed in regard to the present native officers of the army that their military knowledge is no better than that of the sepoys to whose rank they originally belonged; and it is remarked in conclusion that there would not have been the mutiny of 1857 if there had been properly trained native officers in the army.

SAHACHAR,
July 3rd, 1889.

A military class in the Lahore Col-
lege, Punjab.

26. The same paper is glad that Government has granted to the Sikh Khalsa Association the prayer made by them in their address to Lord Dufferin, about appointing the natives of the country as officers in the army, and contemplates opening a military class in the Lahore College. It is hoped that youths of all classes will be admitted into the new class. For some time to come, priority of admission must be given to youths of good families. It will not do for Government to exclude the Bengalis from the proposed military class, for experiment will show that as military officers the Bengalis will bow their heads to none and will win the hearts of their soldiers.

SAMAYA,
July 5th, 1889.

The new loan.

27. The *Samaya*, of the 5th July, says that Government has recently issued a notification declaring its intention of making a 4 per cent. loan of two crores of rupees; but the purpose for which the loan is being raised is not mentioned

in the notification. This is improper. Has Government enquired whether or not the purpose for which the loan is being made is approved by the public? If Government had consulted the public in the matter, they would have advised it to raise the proposed loan in the London market at the low 3 per cent. rate. They are mistaken who think that the high rate of exchange would counterbalance the advantages of a loan made in the London market. There would be ground for thinking thus if the rate of exchange could be expected to become still higher; but there is reason to believe that instead of increasing the rate of exchange will fall, and Government would certainly have been no loser by borrowing in the home market even if the present rate of exchange had continued unchanged. It should be also borne in mind in this connection that the majority of those who will take up this proposed loan will consist of Europeans, that is to say, of men of the same class who would have gladly advanced money at a lower rate of interest if the loan had been made in the home market.

28. The *Sulabh Samáchár-o-Kushdaha*, of the 5th July, says that the sender of a value-payable parcel gets a receipt from the post office, but no receipt is granted

Value-payable book packets. to the sender of a value-payable book packet. Why is a receipt granted in one case and refused in the other? The granting of a printed receipt will cost Government very little, and will involve no real increase of clerical work. The sender of a value-payable book packet is, moreover, required to deposit the money-order commission on the value of the packet at the time of sending the packet, but he is not granted any receipt for the amount so deposited. This rule may be convenient for Government, but it is attended with serious inconvenience to the senders of such packets. At present the sender of such a packet cannot, for want of evidence, claim the value of the packet if it is misappropriated by postal officials. If a value-payable packet is lost, there is also no remedy for it. The Postal authorities are requested to remove this inconvenience of booksellers.

SULABH SAMACHAR-O-KUSHDAHA,

July 5th, 1889.

29. The *Sanjivani*, of the 6th July, referring to a proclamation issued by the Deputy Commissioner of the Pakoko District in Upper Burma, who is a military

Official vagaries in Burma. officer, requiring all Burmese to salaam on their knees all Englishmen whom they may come across, remarks that executive vagaries have now become rampant in Burma, and asks if there is no one to check them.

SANJIVANI,

July 6th, 1889.

The writer also refers to the proceedings of Mr. George, a Magistrate of Mandalay and a civilian of only three years' standing. Mr. George recently went out to hunt down dacoits and arrested some of them. He next tried some of them and ordered them to be hanged, and when they were brought out for execution he stood on the gallows and harangued the spectators. Mr. George thus combined three persons in one, the dacoit-hunter, the Magistrate, and the executioner. What a curious spectacle this combination of functions! Does not Government consider it right to alter an arrangement so horrible?

30. The same paper, referring to the appointment of a Committee, with Sir John Edgar and Mr. Stevens as members, to enquire into the condition of

The Amla Committee. the Civil Court amla, says that fortune now seems disposed to look smilingly on the unfortunate and ill-paid amla, who work hard and receive small pay and are without much prospect of advancement. This is why educated men do not as a rule feel disposed to serve as amla, and the Courts are therefore full of uneducated men of the old type, and corruption reigns there supreme. If the amla are allowed increased salaries, bribery in the Courts will greatly diminish.

SANJIVANI.

SANJIVANI,
July 6th, 1889.

31. The same paper learns from a correspondent that the income-tax assessor in the Kurigram sub-division of the Rungpore district is doing his assessment work in a very high-handed manner, and gives as an illustration the case of four or five persons whose incomes taken separately would be unassessable, and which the assessor has combined in order to be able to impose the tax upon them. The assessor assesses taxes on hearsay evidence, and does not think it necessary to make enquiries into the circumstances of those who are to be assessed. He does not also make enquiries before making fresh assessments every year as assessors are by rule required to do. This is proved by the fact that a notice of assessment has been issued to a pleader who died long before the commencement of the year. The aggrieved assessee makes appeals; but the majority of *Hakims* are men who, from a fear of dismissal or insult, cannot grant exemptions even when they see that exemption should be granted; but Baboo Atul Chandra Chatterjee, the Deputy Magistrate of Kurigram, is an exception. He is one of the few just and courageous officers to be found in the service. Whenever he sees that a poor man has been unjustly assessed, he either exempts him from the tax or reduces the assessment. The assessor has this year assessed those who were exempted from the tax by Atul Baboo last year to double the amount of their former assessments, and many have therefore preferred appeals to Atul Baboo. But the District Magistrate has directed Atul Baboo not to hear those appeals. No one can deny that Atul Baboo is a very able judicial officer. There are indeed few judicial officers so good as he is. Why then has he been forbidden to hear the appeals in question? It is not very difficult to see why. Baboo Atul Chandra will be transferred from Kurigram, and a Eurasian Deputy Magistrate, Mr. Montriou, will come to his place. Mr. Montriou can sit at the feet of Atul Baboo for at least 20 years for instruction in judicial work, and yet the Magistrate of Rungpore has directed Atul Baboo to keep the appeal cases for Mr. Montriou! Is it not the intention of the Magistrate that injustice should be done instead of justice? His object is not only to wring taxes from the poor, but also to insult a respectable Deputy Magistrate like Atul Baboo.

It is hoped that Sir Steuart Bayley will quash this unjust order.

SANJIVANI.

32. The same paper says that black fever is not in many cases cured

Black fever in Assam.

even if medical treatment begins with the attack. Is it not then necessary that the

nature and causes of this disease should be investigated by specialists? It is hoped that Mr. Fitzpatrick, the Chief Commissioner of Assam, will appoint for the present two specialists, who are microscopists, to enquire into the causes of this incurable disease. Government is also requested to earn the blessing of God and of the poor people of Assam by deputing a representative to inspect the condition of those who have been attacked with that disease, and of those who live in constant dread of being attacked with it.

BANGABASI,
July 6th, 1889.

33. Referring to the rumour that the Accountant-General, Bengal, has issued a circular to all district officers directing that up to the 30th November next

The currency note circular.
currency notes presented for exchange should not be cashed, the *Bangabasi*, of the 6th July, says that it has ascertained by careful enquiry that there is truth in the rumour. It is not known why such an order has been so suddenly issued. But the writer can boldly affirm that many insinuations are being made against Government on this account, and that is not good. Government should therefore inform the public how the matter really stands or serious mischief will arise.

34. The *Grámvási*, of the 6th July, does not know what the result

Moulavi Amjad Hossein, Sub-Registrar of Uluberia, and his clerk Jadab Baboo.

of the enquiry into the conduct of Moulavi Amjad Hossein, Sub-Registrar of Uluberia and his clerk Jadab Baboo has been; but this

much is certain that the Moulavi has not mended his ways. Those who gave evidence against him are not permitted to go to the Registry Office; and if they go there on business, their business is not promptly attended to. There is again no reason to believe that the illegal earnings either of the Moulavi or of his clerk have decreased: for on the 14th of June last, Bechu Hajam of Pepurlan had to pay six annas in excess of the legal fee for registering a *kobala* in favour of Nadu Hajam. How long will the writer see these acts of oppression committed by the Sub-Registrar?

35. The *Navavibhákar Sádhárani*, of the 8th July, says that, when

The Salt tax.

Lord Dufferin raised the Salt tax, he no doubt calculated upon an increase of revenue from

the measure, but instead of increasing the revenue has decreased. In 1886-87 the salt revenue amounted in Bengal to Rs. 1,98,22,000; but since the increase of the Salt tax it has come down to Rs. 1,87,57,000. Thus, in consequence of Lord Dufferin's unwise increase of the Salt tax, there has been a loss of nearly eleven lakhs of revenue at this time of financial difficulty. Everyone knows to what this decrease in the consumption of salt is owing. And what will those people now say who assured Lord Dufferin that no hardship would be caused to the poor by the increase of the Salt tax? But when Government's own interests are being injured by that increase, it does not seem likely that Lord Lansdowne will be able to remain indifferent in this matter for a long time, and there is a near probability of the Salt tax being somewhat reduced. The writer heartily supports the proposal of the *Statesman* newspaper that the Salt tax should be diminished by degrees till it is wholly abolished, and that the decrease of revenue which will be caused by its abolition should be made up for by the retrenchment of unnecessary or extravagant expenditure. This proposal has really been made with an eye to the interests of the people. If Government accepts this proposal, it will be able to please the people in two ways: first, by relieving many poor people by putting an end to a great deal of police oppression and by enabling people to use salt for agricultural purposes; and secondly, by reducing unnecessary expenditure.

36. The same paper says that a Government loan of two crores of rupees for a public purpose has been announced in the *India Gazette*. But what is that *public*

The new loan.

purpose?

37. The *Sánti*, of the 10th July, complains of the following oppression committed upon it by the Presidency Postmaster, Mr. Hutton:—

The Presidency Postmaster and the *Santi* newspaper.

A postage of one pice is charged upon certain newspapers of small weight, among which this paper is one. The managers of these papers have to furnish a declaration for three months stating the number of copies which will be sent by post every week during those three months. On each paper sent in excess of that number, an additional postage of one pice is charged. The proprietor of this paper had been sending it under this rule, but he was suddenly informed last Wednesday that an additional postage of two pice would thenceforth be charged on each newspaper in excess of the number stated in the declaration. It was three o'clock when the manager of this paper received the notice, and the papers had then been sent to the post office, and he himself had gone to the General Post Office to deposit money. The manager asked for time to put in the new declaration, but Mr. Hutton refused to grant the prayer. It was prayed

GRAMVÁSI,
July 6th, 1889.

NAAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI,
July 8th, 1889.

NAAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI.

SÁNTI,
July 10th, 1889.

that the papers might be taken on the security of a deposit at the rate of two pice for the excess number. But Mr. Hutton did not grant even this prayer, and said that a declaration must be furnished under the new rules. The manager was obliged to give such a declaration, but it was not accepted that day by Mr. Hutton, on the ground of the office having been closed. On Thursday Mr. Hutton said that as many copies should be sent that week as had been sent the week before; but the proprietor could not do so, as this was the beginning of a new year with this paper, and he could not then ascertain how many subscribers would remain during the year. This was explained to Mr. Hutton, who required that this should be declared in writing. But when the manager asked for paper and a pen from the clerks, he was rudely refused this favour and ordered by them to leave the office. He was not also permitted to see Mr. Hutton again. Reduced to despair, he went to the Personal Assistant to the Postmaster General, who kindly wrote to Mr. Hutton to accept the declaration if there was no objection to it. Mr. Hutton then searched for and discovered a new objection, which was that the postage for the excess papers sent during the last three months should be immediately paid, or an agreement should be given that the payment should be made on Wednesday next, and that otherwise the declaration would not be accepted. The manager could not submit to this *zulum* on a sudden, and, having no other alternative, telegraphed to the Postmaster General, the Lieutenant-Governor and the Viceroy. At night he received a letter from the Postmaster General's Office intimating that the declaration would be taken by the Presidency Postmaster. The declaration was sent next day (Friday), and seeing that the papers were detained, it was declared that money would be paid on Wednesday. The declaration was then accepted. But though money was deposited at one o'clock on Friday, and the papers were sent without delay to the Simla post office, that office did not receive orders for their transmission from the head office even by five o'clock P.M.; so the papers could not go that day also. At last the paper which was of Wednesday's date was sent by post on the Saturday following.

The writer has never seen such injustice and oppression. He knew that all things are done within the British dominions in accordance with the law, but it now appears to him that postal work is governed by no law. In the Post Office Mr. Hutton is master and the law. He perhaps considers the native papers to be worse even than waste paper. What is related above is only a small portion of the *hairan* and *paresan* which the manager has had to undergo. The story of the oppression has been communicated to the higher authorities, and it is hoped that Mr. Hutton will be taught a lesson this time.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

BHARAT MITRA,
June 27th, 1889.

38. The *Bhárat Mitra*, of the 27th June, thanks Government for introducing the Leper Bill. But considering the present pecuniary difficulties of Government, the writer fears that Government will not be able to establish leper asylums, and that, when the Leper Bill is passed into law, it will remain a dead letter.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,
July 3rd, 1889.

39. The *Hindu Ranjiká*, of the 3rd July, has the following on the Leper Bill.—

That the Hindus were not indifferent in the matter of adopting measures for arresting the progress of leprosy amongst them will appear from the statement in the Code of Manu, that in making choice of girls for marriage, the following ten families, however wealthy or rich in the possession of cattle, goats, sheep, and paddy they may

be, should be avoided, namely—those which have ceased to perform the Vedic rites; those in which only female children are born; those which have given up the study of the Vedas; those the members of which are afflicted with (1) dyspepsia, (2) piles, (3) phthisis, (4) epilepsy, (5) leucoderma, (6) leprosy; and hairy families. It is stated in the medical works of the Aryas that itch, leprosy, syphilis, lunacy caused by ghost influence, boils, fever, small-pox, carbuncle, &c., &c., are contracted by frequent conversation with those afflicted with those diseases, by touching the bodies of the persons so afflicted, by inhaling their breath, by eating with them, and by using their beds, seats, cloths and garlands used by them. People who die of leprosy will again contract the disease in their next birth. It is for this reason that the disease has been pronounced to be a vile one. It is a very intractable malady. Who shall say after this that the Hindus treat lepers with indulgence? Indeed, the proposed leper law would not have been necessary if the injunctions of the Hindu Shastras had not been now generally disregarded. So, the writer is glad that the Government is about to legislate on the subject of leprosy.

The writer is also glad that none of the provisions of the Leper Bill will favour the committing of oppression on the weak, or of outrages on female lepers, or interfere with the voluntary performance of religious duties by lepers of both sexes.

The Bill makes no distinction between different kinds of leprosy. But as all kinds of leprosy are not contagious, it is desirable that in the place of the term "leprosy" the word "contagious leprosy" should be substituted in the Bill.

The proposal made by the high priest of the temple at Baidyanath, namely, that lepers willing to go on pilgrimage should not be prevented from doing so, is then referred to, and it is remarked that the Bill in its present form contains nothing to justify the apprehensions of the high priest. In conclusion, it is hoped that no provisions will in future be inserted in the Bill which will mean interference with the religious beliefs of the Hindus.

40. The *Sahachar*, of the 3rd July, approves of the provisions of the Leper Bill, and wants to know how well-to-do lepers will be dealt with under the pro-

SAHACHAR,
July 3rd, 1889.

posed law. These lepers are in the habit of making purchases in the bazaars. Will they be detained in the asylums? Again, how will lepers of the middle class be dealt with?

41. The *Samaya*, of the 5th July, says that it has become very desirable to put a stop to the destruction of fish during the rainy season, which is the breeding

SAMAYA,
July 5th, 1889.

season of that animal. The Calcutta Municipality has recently made a rule prohibiting the bringing for sale into the markets of Calcutta of dead birds and their feathers during those months of the year when birds are known to lay eggs. The municipality should have made a similar rule in regard to fish. The destruction by fishermen of hilsa and other fish during the rainy season is then referred to, and Government is asked to pass a law for the preservation of fish.

42. The same paper has the following on the Leper Bill:—

The Leper Bill.

There are two kinds of leprosy—leucoderma

and leprosy—of which the latter is contagious and the former not. So that in the proposed law relating to the forcible detention of lepers, exception should be made in favour of those suffering from leucoderma. But if a person attacked with leucoderma wishes to go to an asylum, he may be permitted to do so. The proposed leper asylums will benefit none more than the lepers themselves.

SAMAYA.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

SAHACHAR,
July 3rd, 1889.

43. The *Sahachar*, of the 3rd July, says that, as it had expected, nothing has come of the touching appeal made to the Viceroy by the Maharaja of Cashmere.

There is reason to believe that the Maharaja would have gained his object if, instead of addressing his letter to Lord Lansdowne, he had addressed it to the Queen Empress of India, and if Her Majesty had it in her power to interfere in matters connected with Indian administration. He alone can sympathise with the occupant of a throne who himself fills a throne. It is therefore no wonder that the Governor-General of India, who is but an officer appointed by a crowned head, and no crowned head himself, should have failed to sympathise with the miseries of the Maharaja of Cashmere. Besides, it is in accordance with human nature that men become a little harsh whenever they are called upon to exercise power over such as are their superiors in dignity. If, instead of Lord Lansdowne, the Prince of Wales had been the Governor-General of India, the letter of the Maharaja, concluding with the touching request to the Viceroy to shoot him through the heart with his own hand, would have certainly taken effect. As for the Governor-General, he cannot help guiding himself by the advice of the Foreign Office and the Political Resident. His Excellency has told the Maharaja that as the new arrangements for Cashmere have been accepted by the Secretary of State for India, and approved by public opinion, they cannot be changed. By 'public' must be meant the *Pioneer*, and such like papers, for, so far as India is concerned, all the newspapers of the country say that the Maharaja's abdication was not voluntary. Be that as it may, as the new arrangements have been already made, they cannot be changed without a trial. But what the result of the trial will be can be easily guessed. The people of Cashmere detest Colonel Nisbet, and are cursing Prince Amar Singh whom they regard as a traitor to his elder brother. The members of the Council are not able men. There is, therefore, no chance that matters will mend much under the new *regime*. During the five years that Cashmere will be governed by the Resident and the Council, the eyes of all India will be upon them. If they can improve the condition of Cashmere during that time, the public will approve their acts. In the meantime, the Maharaja should try to improve himself. Now that the appointment of the Council has received the approval of the Governor-General, it is the duty of the public to assist it. The Council can justify its own existence only by doing good to the State. The writer is sorry for the Maharaja of Cashmere.

SAMAYA,
July 5th, 1889.

44. The *Samaya*, of the 5th July, is sorry to learn that nothing has come of the touching appeal made to Lord Lansdowne and the Cashmere State.

Lansdowne by the Maharaja of Cashmere.

By declining to alter the recent Cashmere arrangements, the Viceroy has done a wrong thing. Lord Dufferin hesitated to make any arrangements for Cashmere, but Lord Lansdowne has done so very soon after setting foot on the soil of India; and in so doing His Excellency has acted most improperly. The deposition of the Maharaja is a grossly unjust and arbitrary act.

SULABH SAMACHAR-O-KUSHDAHA,
July 5th, 1889

45. The *Sulabh Samachár-o-Kushdaha*, of the 5th July, refers to the proposals made to Government by the Political Agent of Tipperah for the administration of

The Tipperah Raj.

that State, and makes the following observations :—

If the Maharaja be considered incompetent, let a Committee with the Maharaja at its head be appointed to rule the State; and the Jubaraj should not be appointed Regent until such an arrangement has been made and found to fail. What will the public say, or how will the action of Government be defended, if it declares the Maharaja incompetent and at once

deprives him of his independence? It is certain that the Political Agent's report will carry some weight with Government, but the writer must still say what he thinks best in this matter.

46. In reply to the demand made by the Dewan of the Maharajah of Tipperah for the name of the person from whom this paper has obtained the Report of the Political Agent of Tipperah, the *Sanjivani*,

The Report of the Political Agent of Tipperah.

of the 6th July, says that it has not, as the Dewan himself knows well, obtained the report in question from the Maharaja or any of his officers; as in that case the Dewan would have seen the report before the writer saw it. Editors of newspapers never tell how they get secret papers. The writer will therefore only say that he obtained the report from one from whom the Maharaja or his officials will not be able to get it.

47. The *Som Prakásh*, of the 8th July, refers to Lord Lansdowne's reply to the letter addressed to him by the Maharaja of Cashmere and remarks as follows:—

The Viceroy and the Maharaja of Cashmere.

Before rejecting the appeal of the Maharaja, Lord Lansdowne should have tried to realise in his own mind the miserable condition to which His Highness is reduced. Again, if His Excellency was unwilling to decide the appeal, he should have referred it to the Queen-Empress of India. For if the case had been brought to the Empress' notice, there would have been some satisfactory solution of the difficulty. As for the Maharaja, he finds his present humiliation to be unbearable.

48. The *Sánti*, of the 10th July, has the following regarding Cashmere:—

The Maharaja of Cashmere.

What is the Maharaja now! He is now a mere pensioner. Though the owner of immense wealth, and the ruler of an independent State, he is now as a lifeless puppet. We do not know whether he will live another five years. It is no wonder that this torment and this disgrace should be piercing his heart like heated iron spikes. We cannot say whether the English Government will restore to the Maharaja his kingdom after five years, and even if it is restored it is certain that the Maharaja will not have his old freedom. Such being the case, we shall be glad if the Maharaja reconciles himself to his lot.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

49. The *Surabhi-o-Patáká*, of the 4th July, says that the closing by order of Mr. Tute, Magistrate of Cuttack, of the *annachatra* opened at Cuttack by Raja Vaidyanath has resulted in many deaths

Mr. Tute, Magistrate of Cuttack, and the famine in Orissa.

from disease and starvation. If those who are entrusted with the duty of saving the helpless behave in this way, where will the people go for help? Will the closing of charities be followed by the disappearance of famine?

50. A correspondent of the *Sulabh Samáchár-o-Kushdaha*, of the 5th

Scarcity at Samastipur near Durbhunga.

July, says that famine has made its appearance at Samastipur near Durbhunga in Behar. The rice which used to sell at Rs. 2 per maund is now selling at Rs. 4 per maund. The people of Samastipur are very poor, and the scarcity has reduced them to a deplorable condition. If the Maharajas of Durbhunga and Bettiah, as well as other benevolent gentlemen, open *atithisalas* (charity houses), a great many lives can be saved. Many orphan boys and girls and poor helpless women are going from door to door asking for a morsel of food. Many are found lying on the sides of roads in a deplorable condition.

SANJIVANI,
July 6th, 1889.

SOM PRAKASH,
July 8th, 1889.

SANTI,
July 10th, 1889.

SURABHI-O-PATAKA,
July 4th, 1889.

SULABH SAMACHAR-O-
KUSHDAHA,
July 5th, 1889.

BANGABASI,
July 6th, 1889.

51. A correspondent of the *Bangabasi*, of the 6th July, says that excessive rainfall has damaged the paddy plants in Daro, Gumgarh, Mahishadal, Kuramal, Aran-ganagor, Sujamutha, Bhuamutha, Bajarpore and other places in Midnapore.

SANJIVANI,
July 6th, 1889.

52. Baboo Taraknath Datta and Amritalal Bose, of village Gokarni in the Diamond Harbour sub-division, write as follows in the *Sanjivani* of the 6th July:—

Unfortunately the public does not know anything about the distress prevailing in some villages in the Diamond Harbour sub-division, which are in the same condition as Mathurapore, Ghateswara and Kulpî. The correspondents will try to describe the condition of these villages. And first as to Gokarni, the correspondents' own village. The "Gokarni Unnati Bidhayini Sabha" has ascertained by careful enquiries that eight families in that village are half dead. Their condition is such as to bring tears to one's eyes. Fortunately a sum of Rs. 100 was sanctioned some time ago by the Local Board for the repair of roads, &c. The Board placed this money at the disposal of the correspondents. By judiciously selecting labourers, the correspondents have distributed the money. The majority of those who worked under their supervision were weak and reduced. One Jan Mahmud was so fatigued by working without food that he began to gasp and perspire and had to stop working. The correspondents enquired and learnt that Jan Mahmud had got nothing to eat that day except an unripe pine-apple. The correspondents also saw one Sham Shaikh tottering under the weight of a basket of earth. On being questioned, he said I ate only a handful of rice last night. To-day I have had nothing to eat. My frame is becoming exhausted from hunger." On hearing this we instantly gave him some food, and, thus refreshed, he resumed work. One Pitambar Pattari came to a Brahmin's house to pawn a brass plate. The Brahmin being unable to advance him money, he went from door to door, and getting nothing continued to cry. Seeing his helpless condition, the correspondents gave him two annas from the Sabha's fund, and the Brahmin to whom he had come also kindly gave some rice. One day an old man, named Dwarik Sardar, came to the correspondents and said:—"Sirs, I am old and unable to work; I have to support four or five persons, but I have not a handful of rice in my house." The correspondents told him that he would be able to earn something if he came everyday to work under them. But he replied crying—"old as I am, I shall not be able to do any work." If enquiries are made, heartrending accounts of this nature can be collected in every village.

The condition of another village, Gotberia, is very bad. One-fourth of the villagers are literally starving.

The distress of the majority of the inhabitants of Rajapore near south Baraset is so great as to be indescribable. The seed grains are all consumed. The people are feeding the cattle with straw from their sheds, leaving only small patches to lay their heads under. How long will they be able to live in this way? Many have left the village starving. The correspondents have heard that some villagers have gone to reside at a new place called Basundir Abad.

The condition of two respectable families in Nitara is very miserable. The correspondents have seen these two families living on half rations. The sufferings of the cultivators know no bounds.

The following persons are suffering greatly in Mollar Chak, namely, Bhutnath Sarnakar, Nechher Shaik, and the orphans of the late Basik Sarnakar. These men have pawned their houses, doors, windows, brass pots, everything they had. The sufferings of the children of the late Basik

Sarnakar are indescribable. They are begging for food from door to door, bathed in tears. They are so young that it is impossible for them to work.

Such is the condition of the country. Those who deny the existence of distress may not call this famine, but the correspondents must call this famine. If starvation for days together, if the shedding of tears by helpless parents at their hungry children's heartrending wailing for food, if the keeping of body and soul together by eating noxious vegetables be not famine, what is? This is not certainly the kind of famine in which men die in numbers every week, but it will not do therefore to really pooh-pooh this as nothing. A slight reflection will show that this may be nothing in itself, but that it indicates the approaching of a terrible famine. But the money at the disposal of the correspondents is now all spent. There is no knowing what the fate of the people will now be.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

53. The *Sársudhánidhi*, of the 1st July, attributes the frequency of famine in India to the following causes:—

The causes of famine in India.

SÁRSUDHÁNIDHI
July 1st, 1889.

- (1). The cultivators depend too much on rainfall.
- (2). The cultivators are illiterate and poor.
- (3). The exportation of a large quantity of food-grains to foreign countries.
- (4). The neglect on the part of the zemindars to do their duty. They wring money from the ryots, but do not improve the soil.
- (5). The decrease of the number of draught-cattle by slaughter.
- (6). The expansion of railways has caused obstruction to the water-courses.
- (7). The cutting down of jungle has tended to decrease rainfall.
- (8). The want of agricultural schools in the country.

Government is therefore requested not to construct railway lines as relief works, but to cut canals in famine-stricken tracts. Canals will take away excess water in time of flood and supply water to the cultivators in time of drought. Government is also requested to stop the export of food grains in famine years.

54. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 2nd July,

Cholera in the coolie depôts at Ranigunge. The outbreak is due to the insanitary condition of the depôts, and

BURDWAN SANJIVANI
July 2nd, 1889.

the nature of the food taken by the coolies. The depôts should be removed to a distance from the town, and a strict eye should be kept over their sanitary condition.

55. The *Sahachar*, of the 3rd July, asks the Government of India

Natives as financiers. to take note of the fact that, under the administration of its native dewan, the income of

the Travancore State has increased, and its trade and commerce have undergone much development. India will cease to complain if an Indian financier like Sir T. Madhab Rao or the Dewan of Travancore is entrusted with the management of her finances. But Sir T. Madhab Rao and the Dewan of Travancore are natives, and therein lies the whole difficulty.

56. The *Surabhi-o-Patáká*, of the 4th July, referring to the carters'

The carters' strike. strike in Calcutta, makes the following observations:—

SAHACHAR,
July 3rd, 1889.

As the strike in question was the result of a misconception on the part of the carters, it was the duty of the police and the public to remove that misconception. But instead of doing that, the police began to commit

SURABHI-O-PATAKÁ,
July 4th, 1889.

zulum on the carters, and sent up lots of them for trial on the charge of rioting ; and when they were sent up the dutiful Magistrates sent them to jail without saying a word one way or another. Their cases were heard by both the city Magistrates—Mr. Marsden and Moulvie Abdul Jubber. They are certainly experienced Magistrates and did not commit any mistake in trying the cases ; but people nevertheless say that they tried the poor carters in the most summary manner. The carters were not even permitted to engage pleaders, and the Magistrates took the statements of the police on trust.

Being a European and the Chief Magistrate of Calcutta, Mr. Marsden's sense of duty was keener than that of Moulvie Jubber ; and he accordingly passed the sentence of three months' imprisonment in cases in no respect different from those in which the Moulvie's sentence was imprisonment for one month and a half. That the attempt to put down the strike by *zulum* was not confined to the Police and the Magistrates will appear clearly from an incident which happened during the strike. A European was driving though Wellington Square, and seeing at that place a large crowd consisting of carters, policemen, and spectators, he alighted from his carriage and began to belabour the crowd indiscriminately with his whip. In the crush which followed a little boy tripped and fell and was run over by a tramcar. The boy died.

SURABHI-O-PATAKA,
July 4th, 1889.

57. A correspondent of the same paper says that the health of the Deterioration of the health of the town of Midnapore is gradually deteriorating. Midnapore town. The causes are chiefly three—

1. The construction of an anicut on the river *Kansabati* for the purpose of regulating the supply of water in the Midnapore canal. The effect of this construction has been to make the whole of the town damp : and as the anicut has stopped the flow of water in the river, the river water has become unwholesome. Hence the prevalence of sickness in the town.

2. Obstruction to drainage caused by the increase in the number of houses necessitated by the increase of the town population.

3. Want of drinking water. With the increase of population the demand for drinking water has increased. But as no new tanks have been excavated, and the old tanks have become unfit for use, the result has been scarcity of good drinking water.

Some say that the presence of iron in the water of the wells in the higher portion of the town makes that water unfit for use for drinking purposes. But the water is nevertheless drunk and produces sickness.

The Municipality of Midnapore should look to the sanitary arrangements of the town and excavate some wells every year for the purpose of supplying the town with good drinking water.

GRAMVASI,
July 6th, 1889.

The house for Sub-divisional Officers at Uluberia.

ailng of late is that the sub-divisional house is an unhealthy one. The house is one-storied and its floor is very damp. In the opinion of the local doctor, the house can be made fit for use only by removing its cement flooring and replacing it with a layer of tar and by building two rooms on the first floor. The authorities are requested to make the suggested alterations.

BANGABASI,
July 6th, 1889.

58. The *Grámbási*, of the 6th July, refers to the recent illness of Baboo Nanda Lal Bagchi, Deputy Magistrate of Uluberia, and says that the reason why the Sub-divisional Officers of Uluberia are

Famine and free trade.

visitations of famine. In the guise of a merchant the Government is sucking out everything.

Indian soil had remained in the country, there could not have been these repeated

History will show that famine was of very rare occurrence during the Mahomedan rule. During that rule the produce of the country remained in the country, and the export of food-grains on a large scale was forbidden. During the British rule there has been famine—

During 1769-70 in Bengal.

From 1780 to 1783 in the Carnatic.

During 1790-92 in Madras.

In 1802, 1803, 1804, 1807, 1812, 1828, 1833, 1854 and 1866 in Southern India.

In 1838 in the Punjab.

In 1865-66 in Orissa (the great famine).

In 1873-74 in Behar.

In 1876 to 1878 throughout India.

When the Portuguese and the Danes came to India during the Mahomedan rule they were not allowed to export food-grains from India, and when Englishmen came to trade in India the exportation of corn was also forbidden. Still Englishmen carried away much more corn than either the Portuguese or the Danes. In 1728 English merchants exported food-grains worth Rs. 55,80,420 from India to England.

When the English merchants became the rulers of the country, the ruin of the people of this country commenced. In order to facilitate the exportation of grains, Government abolished the duty on inland trade in 1836 in Bengal, and in 1836 in Bombay and in 1844 in Madras. In 1847 the duty on cotton was abolished, and in 1848 the 'टर्न-आइन' was repealed [meaning probably that Act VI of that year was passed.—C. N. B.]

The opening of railways in India in 1853 afforded further facilities for the exportation of grains. Railways have now been constructed over 15 hundred miles, and food-grains are now conveyed from one part of the country to another within a very short time. But English merchants are not satisfied with this. They want a further extension of railways for the further expansion of trade. The Indians are ruined by the railways. The railways are not profitable—they are ruinous to the country. In 1885-86 the loss on account of railways was not less than 73 lakhs of rupees; in 1888-89 the loss has increased to 2 crores and 25 lakhs of rupees; and it was stated in 1884 in the Parliamentary Report that India had to pay not less than 70 lakhs of rupees from the first laying of railway lines in India down to 1884. And yet the greedy white vultures are continually clamouring for extension of railways.

The quantity of food-grains now exported from India is very large. In 1877-78 one crore 48 lakhs 28 thousand and 386 cwts. of rice, of the value of 6 crores 96 lakhs 2 thousand 7 hundred and 76 rupees was exported from India and 638,183 cwts. of wheat of the value of Rs. 2,85,69,900 was exported. But in 1883 Rs. 8,36,32,800 worth of rice and Rs. 8,87,98,310 worth of wheat were exported. Be it noted in this connection that in 1877-78 Southern India was visited by that terrible famine.

The following tabular statement shows the value of useful goods exported from, and the value of worthless things imported into, India during ten years :—

Year.	Export.		Import.
		Rs.	Rs.
1874	...	31,19,84,460	24,08,06,930
1875	...	30,13,72,950	24,24,64,060
1876	...	30,02,50,240	22,40,54,200
1877	...	31,22,47,630	25,33,82,860
1878	...	27,47,04,730	23,27,68,900
1879	...	24,69,82,130	21,37,44,040
1880	...	30,11,79,800	30,45,13,140
1881	...	32,62,94,350	29,24,40,030
1882	...	39,92,11,270	29,05,93,270
1883	...	38,88,24,290	31,87,40,840

India gives gold and receives glass in return : India gives *hirá*, diamond, and receives *jirá* in exchange ; India gives warm blood and gets dry bones in return.

The Indians therefore say with joined hands : " We do not want your powder or your pomatum to increase the luster of the face or the glaze of curled hair ; we do not wish to delude people by giving ourselves catching airs with watches and sticks ; we do not wish to adorn our cottages with chandeliers, lanterns and pictures ; we do not wish to shine in your silken and woollen fabrics ; we do not wish to quench the sinful thirst with your sherry and your champagne ; we do not wish to hide our shame with your cloth. If it be that the race of native weavers is exterminated, we shall wear the barks of trees, and if we cannot get even barks of trees to wear, we will go naked. We beg of you, Life—pray, give us that."

URIYA PAPERS.

UTKAL DIPÍKA,
June 29th, 1889.

SAMVAD BAHIKÁ,
June 27th, 1889.

UTKAL DIPÍKA,
June 29th, 1889.

DIPAKA,
June 29th, 1889.

UTKALDIPÍKA,
June 29th, 1889.

UTKALDIPÍKA,
June 29th, 1889.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
June 26th, 1889.

60. The *Utkal Dipáka*, of the 29th June, and the *Samvádváhiká*, of the 27th June, approve of the effort, the

Government is making to arrest the progress of leprosy in India by legislative enactment. They also speak approvingly of the provisions of the Bill which has been drafted to secure that object, and which is now engaging the attention of the Supreme Legislative Council.

61. The *Dípaka* and *Utkal Dípiká*, of the 29th June, take exception

The result of the last B. L. Examination. to the procedure of the Registrar of the Calcutta University in announcing, so long after the publication of the results of the

B. L. Examination, that some more candidates have passed. It is no doubt just, they remark, that correct results should come out though late, but why work should be done in such a slipshod manner in the Office of the Registrar they are unable to understand.

62. All the native papers of the week under report speak highly of

Relief of distress in Angul. the measures which the Superintendent of the

Tributary States has adopted for the relief of

distress in Angul, but the *Utkal Dípiká*, of the 29th June, remarks that the Assistant Superintendent of the Tributary States, who has been deputed to the interior of the Gurjats with the object of ascertaining the true condition of the people and submitting a report on the same to Government, ought to have been sent earlier. For it is not a satisfactory discharge of duty to make provision for relieving the famished and the distressed long after considerable numbers of them have died of starvation. The same paper further observes that the grant of Rs. 10,000 by Government for Angul clearly shows that Government are willing to give help provided the local officers make out a clear case, and in this the latter have been wanting, because it is clear that a timely representation of facts and circumstances by them would have averted the deaths from starvation of a certain number of subjects.

63. The Hindole and Rampore correspondents of the *Utkal Dípiká*, of the 29th June, and the Baramba corre-

Relief of distress in certain Tribu-
tary States.

spondent of the *Uriya and Navasamvád*, of the 26th June, report, for the information of the

public, that the managers of those Tributary States attended, though at a great cost and inconvenience, to the distress of the subjects in their respective jurisdictions, where relief works are going on even at the present moment.

64. At the same time the *Samvádváhiká*, of the 27th June, and the *Utkal Dípiká*, of the 29th June, report that
 Effects of rainfall in the Cuttack
 and Balasore districts.
 opportune and sufficient rainfall has checked
 the progress of cholera to a great extent by
 supplying drinkable water in the Balasore district, and has reduced the price
 of paddy in the Cuttack district.

SAMVADBAHÍKA,
 June 27th, 1889.

UTKAL DIPAKA,
 June 29th, 1889.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
 The 13th July 1889.

